

FLOWING WELLS HIGH SCHOOL VENTURE FUND

Concept:

A venture fund for high school students has been developed and initiated by Greater Tucson Economic Development Council (GTEC) President/CEO Steve Weathers. Potentially the only active fund of its kind available to high school students, the fund has been dedicated to assisting students at Flowing Wells High School to develop the entrepreneurial skills needed to start a small business.

Program Highlights:

- Flowing Wells High School students will work in conjunction with the Students of Free Enterprise (SIFE) group at UA in the development of their ideas and presentation of their business plans to receive venture funding to launch their business concepts.
- Tucson business executives are invited to mentor selected Flowing Wells High School students in the development and presentation of their business plans to an investor group.
- Tucson business investors are invited to contribute to the fund, act as mentors to the students, and participate in the business plan presentation, approving plans and providing funding for actual business implementation.
- Flowing Wells high School students not presenting business plans will also work with students and business executives in mentoring plan development and evaluating plan presentations.
- The business investors will also mentor the students who receive funding and implement their business concepts in the summer of 2002.

Objectives:

Overall program objectives are to: encourage high school students to fully develop entrepreneurial business concepts, write a business plan, present that plan to live business investors for funding approval, and to implement their business with ongoing investor mentoring.

Longer term objectives are to encourage students to seek a college curriculum that will further develop their business potential, contributing to the development of an entrepreneurial business focused labor force in Tucson.

The program has a the support of:

Steve Weathers, President/CEO, Greater Tucson Economic Development Council
Sharon Bronson, Vice Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Dr. John Pedicone, Superintendent of Flowing Wells Schools
Dr. Karyn Blair, Principal of Flowing Wells High School
Jodi Horton, Executive Director of the School to Work Partnership
Jessica Huerta, President Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at the University of Arizona
Brenda Murielti, Director of Vocational Education at Flowing Wells High School
Marcia Klipsch, SIFE Advisory Board at UA
Larry Hecker, Partner Hecker & Meuhlebach, PLLC

To get involved in the program please contact:

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